



Draft Minutes

of the Meeting of

The Executive Tuesday, 7th February 2017

held at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

Meeting Commenced: 2.30 pm Meeting Concluded: 4.15 pm

Councillors:

P Nigel Ashton (Chairman)

P Elfan Ap Rees (Vice-Chairman)

P Felicity Baker

P Jan Barber

P Peter Bryant

A David Pasley

P Dawn Payne

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Also in attendance: Councillors Chris Blades, Peter Burden, Charles Cave, Andy Cole, Donald Davies, Bob Garner, Jill Iles, Ruth Jacobs, David Jolley, Reyna Knight, Tom Leimdorfer, John Ley-Morgan, David Oyns, Marcia Pepperall, Terry Porter, Roz Willis

Officers in attendance: Mike Jackson (Chief Executive), David Carter (Director of Development and Environment), Sheila Smith (Director of People and Communities), Nick Brain (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), Malcolm Coe (Head of Finance and Property), Zoe Briffitt (Corporate Services), Sue Efford (Corporate Services), Howard Evans (People and Communities), Mark Hughes (People and Communities), Paul Morris (Corporate Services), Graham Quick (Development and Environment), Michael Reep (Development and Environment), Allan Taylor (Development and Environment), Melanie Watts (Corporate Services)

EXE **Addresses by Members of the Public: Ron Urquhart, Standard Life**
71 **Investments – Site Allocation Plan (Agenda Item 1)**

Suspension of Standing Orders

Resolved: that Standing Orders be suspended under Standing Order 40 to enable Members to receive an address from Ron Urquhart who is not a resident, business rate payer or elector of North Somerset.

The Executive’s proceedings with Standing Orders suspended then followed

Mr Urquhart addressed the Executive on the subject of Old Mill Road and its inclusion within the Site Allocation Plan. He commented that Standard Life Investments was working closely with council officers on the redevelopment of the site to provide new retail and leisure space and to retain a greater level of spend within the town. He stressed that whilst the proposal included residential use within the site this was not the driving force behind the redevelopment and he assured members the proposal was to create an appropriate mix and a more efficient use of the site, creating a greater number of jobs across a range of sectors. With regard to existing businesses on the site he stated that Standard Life Investments was working with the Council to find alternative business sites where appropriate.

The Chairman thanked Mr Urquhart for his address.

The Executive’s proceedings under the provisions of Standing Orders then resumed

EXE **Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 3)**

71

None

EXE **Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 December 2016 (Agenda Item 4)**

72

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

EXE **Strategic Planning and Economic Development Policy & Scrutiny Panel**
73 **24 January 2017: SPE 30 Site Allocation Plan – Response to**
 Consultation on Public Version (Agenda Item 6)

The Executive received the reference from the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Policy & Scrutiny Panel on 24 January 2017.

Councillor Ap Rees tabled a paper proposing further amendments to the Site Allocations Plan Publication version which took account of the responses received as part of the public consultation process, from local members and from the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Policy & Scrutiny Panel (SPED). A copy of the paper tabled is filed on the minute book. He addressed each of the proposed amendments in turn and proposed a further change relating to the site specific details/notes for Moor Road, Yatton in respect of development of the orchard, the text to read as follows:

“No development in the orchard. The provision of an access road across the orchard will only be considered if alternative access arrangements cannot be made and subject to a suitable scheme being agreed with Natural England. Should a suitable scheme not be agreed, alternative access arrangements must be made.”

He explained that if agreed by the Executive, these amendments would be submitted to the Inspector as changes the Council would wish the Inspector to take into account. The changes were not considered to be significant therefore further public consultation prior to submission would not be required.

In discussing the proposals there was general support for the comments put forward as part of the consultation and for the suggested amendments as tabled. Members discussed each amendment in turn, during which the following issues were raised:

1. Moor Road, Yatton – members welcomed the proposed amendments to address the concerns around access to the site and development in the orchard.

2. Old Mill Road, Portishead – Councillor Ashton pointed out the entire site was under the developer's control and suggested the Council was not in a position to insist the site be designated as an employment area with the housing element removed. He saw no harm in including an element of residential accommodation on the site if there was an opportunity to do so, providing there was a mixed use with the emphasis on employment. Members noted the importance of this employment site within the centre of Portishead and the need to both protect and seek to increase job opportunities on the site. Reference was made to the importance of retaining skilled and specialist employment opportunities within the town such as those which currently existed on the site and members welcomed the proposal to either relocate existing businesses or incorporate them within the redevelopment scheme. Reference was also made to the need to give due consideration to the parking problems in Portishead as part of any redevelopment of the site.

3. Additional residential allocations – in discussing the inclusion within the Site Allocation Plan of additional sites that had recently secured planning consent or where there was a recommendation for planning permission, members noted that the inclusion of the first three sites ie land north of Greenhill Road, Sandford; land at Wentwood Drive, Weston-super-Mare and Tickenham Garden Centre had also been considered by SPED and no objections had been raised. With reference to land off Wrington Lane, Congresbury a concern was raised at the inclusion of this site when a planning application for 50 dwellings on the site would be considered by the Planning and Regulatory Committee the following day. Councillor Ap Rees responded this did not pre-judge the Committee’s decision but provided the opportunity for the site to be included if the officer recommendation to approve was supported but not if it was refused. With reference to the site at Gatcombe Farm, Wrington the proposed approach as set out in the paper was supported.

4. Proposed amendment to the Strategic Gap boundary between Weston-super-Mare, Hutton, Parklands Village and Locking – there was no objection to this amendment.

It was subsequently

Resolved: that the proposed further amendments to the Site Allocations Plan Publication version, as tabled at the meeting and with the inclusion of the additional change relating to the orchard at Moor Road, Yatton referred to above, be forwarded to the Inspector as part of the submission process as changes which the Council would wish the Inspector to take into account.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the reference from the panel, the paper tabled at the meeting and as discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the reference from the panel, the paper tabled at the meeting and as discussed above.

EXE West of England Sub-Region (Agenda Item 7)

74

The Chief Executive reported the Council had been advised that the first meeting of the Mayoral Combined Authority in shadow form would be held on 1 March 2017. This meeting would agree a Constitution for the Mayoral Combined Authority and describe its relationship to a proposed new Joint Committee for the West of England. He added discussions were currently taking place on the terms of reference for the new Joint Committee which would replace the Strategic Leaders Board, and a draft would be shared with members at the earliest opportunity. He confirmed the Joint Committee would need to be agreed by all four councils before it could be established.

Councillor Ashton confirmed that joint working arrangements between the four authorities would continue.

EXE Forward Plan dated 31 January 2017 (Agenda Item 8)

75

Councillor Ashton presented the Forward Plan.

Resolved: that the Forward Plan be noted.

EXE Bathing Adaptations Contract (Agenda Item 9)

76

Councillor Ap Rees presented the report.

In discussing the open tender process, reference was made to the benefits of using local contractors to undertake this work and questions were raised regarding what action was being taken to encourage local contractors to bid. It was noted this contract did not involve the pooling of budgets but would improve the council's purchasing power and should deliver better value for money.

Resolved:

(1) that the decision on the award of the contract for the provision of bathing adaptations and associated works be delegated to the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Housing, Strategic Planning, Highways and Economic Development, in consultation with the Director of People and Communities and Section 151 Officer, for a term of three years with provision to extend the contract by one year; and

(2) that officers be authorised to finalise the framework contract and the drawdown arrangements with Bristol City Council and the successful contractors.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**EXE Extension of the Current Highways and Street-Lighting Term
77 Maintenance Contracts (Agenda Item 10)**

Councillor Ap Rees presented the report.

Resolved:

(1) that the 12 month extension to the current Highways Term Maintenance Contract be approved; and

(2) that the 12 month extension to the current Street-lighting Term Maintenance Contract be approved.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE 78 On and Off Street Parking Fees and Charges Review 2017 (Agenda Item 11)

Councillor Ap Rees presented the report. He reported that the proposals had been considered at an informal meeting of the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Policy and Scrutiny Panel (SPED) and no objections had been raised. He added that Department for Transport approval had now been forthcoming for the adoption of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) which would strengthen on street enforcement. This was due to commence on 3 April 2017.

In considering the report reference was made to the following: the reasons for the higher increase in parking charges at Nailsea station and to the potential impact of this on on-street parking; opportunities for introducing residents parking permits and the need to consider the effects of CPE before looking at other options; the number of traffic wardens to be employed as part of CPE and whether these would operate on a district wide basis.

Resolved:

(1) that the proposed changes to on and off street parking fees and charges, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved and included in a variation of the current parking orders; and

(2) that the new parking orders come into force on 3 April 2017 or as soon as the legal processes have been completed.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE 79 Novations of Support to Live at Home Contract (Worle) and Extra Care Contracts (Worle) (Agenda Item 12)

Councillor Payne presented the report.

In discussing the report reference was made to positive feedback received in respect of the new providers and to the benefits of placing greater value on local knowledge when awarding such contracts.

Resolved: that the urgent Executive Member decisions as set out below be noted:

(i) P&C 38: To approve the novation of contract for Support to Live at Home Contract (Worle) to Notaro Homecare Ltd (Registered Company No 10322148) following notification of the proposed withdrawal of Human Support Group at short notice.

(ii) P&C 39: To approve the novation of the contract for Extra Care schemes at Lakeside Court and Diamond Court in Worle to Notaro Homecare Ltd (Registered Company No 10322148) and for Tamar Court Extra Care scheme including day services to Alliance Living Care (Registered Company No 04164129) following notification of the proposed withdrawal of Human Support Group at short notice.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE 80 Month 9 Budget Monitor 2016/17 (Agenda Item 13)

The Head of Finance and Property presented the report. He referred to the reduction in the overspend from that reported to the Executive at month 3, and highlighted the main financial variances and movements as identified by directorates in Appendix 1 and the mitigating actions being taken to address the overspend. He added it was unlikely these initiatives would deliver in time and therefore the use of reserves would be necessary in order to balance the budget. He made reference to the increased financial pressures in 2017/18 arising from further government funding reductions.

The Head of Finance and Property also outlined the current financial performance of the capital budget as set out in Appendix 2 of the report and to the changes to the capital programme in Appendix 3. He stated there would be careful monitoring and regular reporting throughout the coming year and referred to the importance of focussed scrutiny of the budgets in 2017/18.

Resolved:

- (1) that the projected revenue and capital budget forecasts as detailed within the report and the range of management actions being taken to close the revenue budget gap be noted; and
- (2) that the amendments to the capital budgets as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report be approved.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18 (Agenda Item 14)

81

The Head of Finance and Property presented the report. He made particular reference to the estimated level of borrowing required to fund the capital programme over the next few years and to the council's investment and borrowing strategies.

Recommended to Council:

- (1) that the requirement to borrow £38.864million during the period 2016-2019 as funding for the approved capital programme be approved;
- (2) that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18 as shown in Appendix 1 of the Executive report be approved;
- (3) that the Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 as shown in Appendix 2 of the Executive report be approved;
- (4) that the Minimum Revenue Provision policy for 2017/18 and retrospectively for 2016/17 as shown in Appendix 3 of the Executive report be approved; and
- (5) that any changes to the Strategy during the 2017/18 financial year be delegated to the Executive Member for Budgets and the Head of Finance and Property for decision.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Revenue Budget 2017/18 and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)
Update (Agenda Item 15)**

The Head of Finance and Property presented the report. He outlined the latest resource assumptions within the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and highlighted the key changes. He referred to the budget scrutiny session that had taken place and to the regular reports to the Executive and Council throughout the year. He drew attention to the key risks as set out in Figure 11 and to the challenges in addressing the 2016/17 overspend. He also made reference to the Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) which had been published on the website and he encouraged all councillors to familiarise themselves with them in advance of the Council meeting on 21 February 2017.

Members expressed their thanks to officers for the work undertaken to reduce costs and increase income, and the Executive Members highlighted the particular service challenges and actions to mitigate the effects of budget reductions within their own portfolios.

In discussing the report particular reference was made to the following areas: previous efforts to protect frontline services by cutting back office support staff and the impact of this on professional officers; a request for officers to give further consideration to how EIAs were completed to ensure they focussed on those service cuts which resulted in a disproportionate effect on certain groups; a request for benchmarking data and regional averages to be included within the report; concerns around the withdrawal of the Education Services Grant (ESG) and uncertainty in relation to the Transitional Grant for 2017/18, the loss of staff and expertise that would result and how the severance costs would be addressed within the budget; queries around the new house build numbers supporting the revenue income assumptions and the need for these to be kept under review; the robustness of the budget assumptions regarding a phased reduction in demand for children 'looked after' based on the implementation of the Social Impact Bond; concerns around demand management and progress with the transformation programme and the need to maintain pressure on this; the need to address the increase in residual waste and to introduce initiatives to reduce demand and influence public behaviour; improvements in the scheduling of road repairs and gulley emptying with a focus on priority areas; with reference to the benefits of reorganising and integrating transport services, members noted an Integrated Transport Workshop had been arranged for 27 February to which all councillors were invited.

Recommended to Council:

- (1) that a revenue budget for 2017/18 as detailed within the Executive report be approved;
- (2) that a Council Tax increase of 1.75% for 2017/18 be approved;

(3) that the government's proposal to adopt a Council Tax levy to part meet the cost of rising demand in adult social care be accepted. For 2017/18, it is recommended that Council approve a 3% Council Tax levy; and

(4) that £597k of 'one off' reserves be allocated to the 2017/18 revenue budget.

It was further

Resolved:

(1) that the updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and core service data underpinning financial projections be noted; and

(2) that members familiarise themselves with the published Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) that underpin the 2017/18 budget savings plans: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/2017eia

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**EXE
83 Capital Budget 2017/18 and Medium Term Capital Investment Strategy
 (Agenda Item 16)**

The Head of Finance and Property presented the report. He drew attention to the summary of recommended criteria for future investment decisions as set out on page 8 of the report, the summary and list of recommended projects in Figure 6 (page 8) and to efforts being made to adopt a more strategic approach across the organisation.

In discussing the report members made reference to the key capital risks and raised particular concerns that developer contributions may not meet full development needs and the impact this would have on local communities.

Recommended to Council:

(1) that the projects listed in paragraph 5.4 of the Executive report for 'full approval' in 2017/18 totalling £3.433 million be approved, to be funded from the resources listed in paragraph 5.5 of the Executive report, including the use of £0.437m of prudential borrowing for the LED Lighting invest to save project; and

(2) that the projects listed in paragraph 5.4 of the Executive report for 'in principle allocation' totalling £18.562 million over 5 years be approved, to be funded from the resources listed in paragraph 5.5 of the Executive report. The full approval for these projects is to be the subject of further reports on the detailed proposals being approved, Local Government Finance grant approval, or (in the case of Infrastructure on North Somerset Council land), delegated approval of the S151 officer.

It was further

Resolved: that the following Capital Strategy principles be approved:

- (i) The principle of directly allocating 90% of certain grants to the schools estate, with the balance being pooled to deliver the wider environment.
- (ii) The principle of directly allocating 90% of certain grants to highways maintenance, with the balance being pooled to deliver wider infrastructure and regeneration objectives.
- (iii) An allocation of the headroom resources for both the Asset Management Programme and the ICT Replacement Programme of £0.7m per annum
- (iv) An allocation from the headroom resources of £5m (to be phased according to cash flow) to the proposed Development Company for regeneration type projects (within criteria to be agreed).
- (v) Consideration of a potential allocation of unsupported borrowing to a proposed Investment Company (or NSC Investment Fund) to undertake investment to generate income. This will only be actioned once options for delivery have been considered, and will be the subject of a separate report to the Executive and/or Council.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE Report from Policy and Scrutiny (Agenda Item 17)

84

There was no policy and scrutiny report to this meeting.

**EXE Oral reports of Executive Councillors: Councillor Ap Rees - Ward Member Incapacity or
85 Long Term Sickness (Agenda Item 18)**

Councillor Ap Rees reported that consideration was being given to how to address ward issues where a member was incapacitated or suffering from long term sickness. He stated

there was no provision for this at present but it was proposed to allow group leaders to nominate a stand-in in such cases. He hoped this could be introduced as soon as possible.

**EXE
86 Oral reports of Executive Councillors: Councillor Payne - Osborne House, Clevedon
(Agenda Item 18)**

Councillor Payne was pleased to announce that a recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection of Osborne House in Clevedon had rated it 'outstanding'.

**EXE
87 Oral reports of Executive Councillors: Councillor Baker - Clevedon Hall (Agenda Item 18)**

Councillor Baker referred to the tourism conference taking place at Clevedon Hall today. She stated that Clevedon Hall was a stunning hotel and provided a wonderful addition to the accommodation offer within North Somerset.

Chairman
